

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH COMMISSION APPLICATION

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY HEALTH COMMISSION MISSION:

The mission of the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission shall be to work with, and on behalf of, the residents of the County to preserve and improve the quality of health for all people within the community.

BY-LAWS, ARTICLE III, SECTION 1 - MEMBERSHIP:

a. The voting membership of the Commission should be broadly representative of the social, economic, linguistic, handicapped, and racial populations, geographical areas within the County and be in reasonable proportion to the ethnic origin, gender and age groups in the population of San Luis Obispo County.

b. The voting membership of the Commission shall consist at all times of a majority six (6) of health care consumers who are not direct or indirect providers of health care. The remainder of the Commission voting membership, five (5), two (2) shall be indirect providers and three (3) direct providers who are representative of the health care system in San Luis Obispo County. For the purposes of this Commission, effective July 1, 2000, indirect providers are defined as those individuals who are affiliated with the health care system and who are currently providing support services. These may include, but are not limited to medical office staff, health care administrators, health insurance personnel, health education/trainers, and individuals who are members of governing boards of a health care entity. Direct providers for the purposes of this Commission are defined as those individuals who are currently providing "hands on" health care services. These may include but not limited to, physicians, nurses, lab technologists, pharmacists, dentists, physicians assistants, ophthalmologists, podiatrists, mental health therapists, and other health care service providers.

(Please print or type)

Name Kris Kington-Barker

Address (home) [REDACTED]

City Paso Robles Zip 93446

Address (work) [REDACTED]

City San Luis Obispo Zip 93401

Phone (home) [REDACTED] Phone (work) [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

☒ Current ☐ Past Occupation Executive Director

☒ Current ☐ Past Employer Hospice, SLO County

ON A SEPARATE SHEET, PLEASE INCLUDE A SHORT NARRATIVE IN RESPONSE TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

1. Why do you want to serve on the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission?
2. What do you envision contributing during your term on the Commission?
3. What health issues interest or concern you?
4. The expectation is that Commissioners will devote at least 10 hours per month. Will your time schedule permit this commitment?

Please attach a resume, if available. A resume will not substitute for the above-requested information.

Please attach two letters of reference attesting to your knowledge and interest in promoting health care in San Luis Obispo County.

PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: HEALTH COMMISSION, 2191 JOHNSON AVENUE, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401

SLO County Health Commission
Application – Narrative Questions
Kris Kington-Barker

1. Why do you want to serve on the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission?

A: I have been a resident of SLO County off and on since 1978. As a consumer, I feel strongly that it is important to remain informed and involved in my healthcare. The field of healthcare has been so tumultuous over the past 15 years that remaining informed and able to be a participant rather than a bystander takes a great deal of diligence. I have worked hard at this however I see so many around me who are confused, overwhelmed and overpowered by healthcare systems and processes they can no longer navigate. This is especially true for those who either have had limited access due to healthcare coverage or lack of understanding of community resources. Our county has an average age that is older than typical California communities. Over the next 10 years, we will have even more challenges meeting the needs of the aging baby boomers, of which I am one.

Since the early 1970's I have worked in the field of healthcare for the state, counties, nonprofits, for profits and rural health sectors. I feel my experience, and exposure to both the healthcare environment and this community has provided me an education that I would like to put to use on a larger scale.

2. What do you envision contributing during your term on the Commission?

A: I have a deep appreciation for the importance of asking questions, seeking input from both experts and consumers and bringing best practices from other areas into play when appropriate and helpful. I feel my background as a health professional in a wide variety of careers would be useful as a landscape for my interest and passion as a consumer and involved community member.

3. What health issues interest or concern you?

The ever growing senior population in this community and limited resources available for many is something more of us will begin to face. We are seeing just the tip of the iceberg here. The average middle income family facing proving care for an aging parent is challenged with how to afford such care. Insurances will not cover care and the cost is

too rich for many to pay privately. Does one quit their job to become a full time care giver? Sell assets or mortgage a home to pay for care in assisted living (to the tune of \$5-8k/ month)? Place Mom/Dad in an environment they hate because it is all that can be afforded?

Fast Vs Slow medicine – We have become a society of technology, diagnostic tests and prescriptions instead of health *care*. Our health systems are fragmented to a point that different physicians are looking at a single body system rather than the patient as a whole. The speed of the medical environment sometimes makes it impossible for patients to ask questions, gain understanding and participate in their own healthcare decisions. The result can and has been increased costs for care that has been unnecessary or misaligned with the patient's health goals, lack of compliance by patients, or patients waiting to seek care when there is a medical crisis.

Our mental health system nationwide is broken. We often see the result of poor access to adequate treatment in our homeless shelters, jails, courts, hospitals and morgues. SLO County is in no better position. We have insufficient inpatient beds and too few outpatient resources through county mental health and other agencies for individuals with chronic mental illness.

4. I have a flexible work schedule and am able to schedule important meetings within the structure of my other responsibilities. I am selective about how many boards and committee I am on. I do not want to overextend and render myself ineffective in meeting my commitments.



550 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
(805) 543-2323 • Fax: (805) 543-2346 • www.cfsloco.org

May 19, 2014

SLO County Health Commission
2191 Johnson Ave
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Dear Selection Committee:

I am pleased to provide this letter of reference for Kris Kington-Barker in her pursuit of a seat on the San Luis Obispo County Health Commission. I have known Kris for more than 20 years. As the former Director of Health Services for Community Action Partnership of SLO (formerly Economic Opportunity Commission), and now as Director of Grants & Programs for the Community Foundation SLO County, I have witnessed Ms. Kington-Barker's work in the community, non-profit sector and in health care administration.

I believe Kris will be a valuable asset to the Health Commission and her participation will reflect the needs of health care consumers in our community. She is intelligent and thoughtful, bringing her knowledge to a discussion and an open heart to the issues. Her years of experience in health and human services and her familiarity with the history of San Luis Obispo county gives her an excellent perspective on the evolution of our local health care system and its impact on the changing demographics of our county.

Ms. Kington-Barker has demonstrated her willingness to provide leadership and work hard on behalf of our community. She has been involved with the community-wide town hall efforts of the Foundation for Community Design, host of Central Coast Voices, and currently serves on the steering committee for ACTION for Healthy Communities (a county-wide quality of life indicator project).

Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts about Kris' qualifications to be a Health Commissioner.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janice Fong Wolf".

Janice Fong Wolf
Director of Grants & Programs

Daniel R. Lewis, M.D.
1023 Pacific Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Diplomate, American Board of Internal Medicine
Subspecialty Certification in Medical Oncology

(805) 543-3350

May 20, 2014

Health Commission
2191 Johnson Avenue
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

I have known Kris Kington for the past 25 years. Currently, she is the Executive Director of a not for profit hospice. This is a challenging position due to tight budget realities. She continues to amaze me with her ability to develop new programs (Pet Peace of Mind) and to hire energetic and enthusiastic workers, while meeting the ongoing need for fund raising. Kris is articulate and passionate in leading the hospice team to provide care for a client base who are in need. Hospice is very lucky to have her as its Executive Director.

Kris now has a strong interest in serving on the Health Commission. She has a long standing interest in healthcare, and sees serving on the Health Commission as an opportunity to promote healthcare in the county, with emphasis on making healthcare available to the wide range of county citizens, especially with the rising population of people entering retirement age.

I am confident that with her interpersonal and leadership skills, she will be a strong commission member.

Sincerely,



Daniel R. Lewis, M.D.

DRL/rh